

Judicial Council Turns 100

1920s

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1. California's First Survey of Superior Courts

1926

The Judicial Council conducted the state's first survey of superior court operations. Finding extreme workload congestion, the council recommended close to 50 corrective legislative bills.

2. Establishment of the Commission on Qualifications

1930 - 1939

The Commission on Qualifications was established to review the Governor's judicial appointments to the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal. Thirty years later, the council proposed renaming it the Commission on Judicial Appointments and expanding its authority to also review judicial appointments to the municipal and superior courts.

1930s

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3. Judicial Council Prescribes Rules of Court

1940 - 1949

Consistent with its constitutional mandate, the council was granted power by the Legislature to prescribe rules of court governing appellate practice and civil and criminal actions and proceedings in all trial courts.

1940s

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1950s

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4. Court Level Consolidations

1950 - 1959

More than 700 court levels were consolidated into only two—municipal courts and justice courts—with uniform judicial qualifications, salaries, and provisions for financial support.



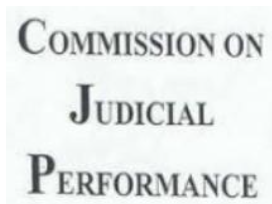
5. Administrative Director of the Courts Position Created

1960 - 1969

An amendment to article 6 of the state Constitution created the position of Administrative Director of the Courts. The following year, the Legislature established the staff agency to help implement the policies of the Judicial Council.

1960s

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6. Establishment of Commission on Judicial Qualifications

1960 - 1969

The council recommended constitutional amendments and statutes that created the Commission on Judicial Qualifications (now called the Commission on Judicial Performance), the independent state agency responsible for investigating complaints of judicial misconduct.

1970s

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7. Establishment of California Center for Judicial Education and Research

1970 - 1979

The council and the California Judges Association jointly established the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) to provide continuing education for judicial officers and court staff.

8. Judicial Council Adopted Rules of Court

1970 - 1979

The council adopted rules of court to provide an administrative procedure and support for trial courts when there is a change in venue for criminal cases.



9. New Court Interpreter Standards

1970 - 1979

Following an amendment to the California Constitution recognizing the right to an interpreter for any person charged with a crime and unable to understand English, the council conducted an extensive study of the language needs of non-English-speaking persons that led to new court interpreter standards.

10. New Council Rules for Juvenile Cases

1970 - 1979

New council rules took effect to improve procedures, practices, and administration in juvenile courts.

11. Authority to Allocate State Funds

1970 - 1979

The council acquired authority to allocate state funds for its own support and that of the appellate courts.

1980s

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12. First Trial Court Funding Act

1980 - 1989

Supported by the council, the first Trial Court Funding Act acknowledged that like the appellate courts, the trial courts should be fully funded by the state instead of their counties. The Brown-Presley Trial Court Funding Act of 1988 signaled the state had finally accepted partial funding responsibility for trial courts.

13. Trial Court Delay Reduction Act

1980 - 1989

The council helped implement the Trial Court Delay Reduction Act, which established recommended time goals to encourage the prompt disposition of all matters coming before the courts.



14. Access and Fairness Advisory Committee

1980 - 1989

The council formed an Access and Fairness Advisory Committee to make recommendations about fairness issues in the courts related to gender, race, ethnicity, persons with disabilities, and sexual orientation. The council also introduced an ethnic and gender fairness education program for judges.

15. Advisory Committee on Gender Bias in the Courts

1980 - 1989

The council's Advisory Committee on Gender Bias in the Courts was created and soon provided 68 recommendations for reform—all were adopted by the council.



16. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs

1980 - 1989

The council created guidelines for the development of local Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs to represent abused and neglected children in court proceedings, along with a grant program to expand CASA programs throughout the state.

17. Cameras in Court

1980 - 1989

Following a pilot to permit media coverage of court proceedings, the council amended the California Rules of Court, allowing cameras in court with approval from the judge.



18. Children's Waiting Rooms in Courthouses

1980 - 1989

The council approved a rule of court encouraging courts to provide a waiting room for children whose parents or guardians are attending a court hearing as a litigant or witness or for other purposes. The council also helped to advocate for and secure ongoing state funding for children's waiting rooms.

1990s

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19. Trial Court Realignment and Efficiency Act

1990 - 1999

The Trial Court Realignment and Efficiency Act increased state funding in exchange for court reforms. The Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 then instituted full state funding for trial courts, instead of county funding, increasing the consistency and reliability of court funding around the state.

20. Voluntary Unification of Superior and Municipal Courts

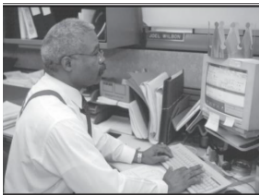
1990

Proposition 220 provided for voluntary unification of the superior and municipal courts in each county, improving the consistency and overall efficiency of court operations and services to the public.

21. Commission on the Future of the California Courts

1990 - 1999

The Commission on the Future of the California Courts undertook the most comprehensive review of the California judiciary in history, offering nearly 300 recommendations to make the court system more accessible and efficient.



22. Judicial Branch Statistical Information System

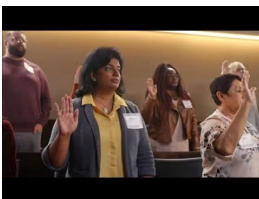
1990 - 1999

The council launched the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System to gather and analyze court data and assist in judicial branch planning efforts.

23. Council's First Strategic Plan

1990 - 1999

The council adopted its first official strategic plan, which included goals such as access, fairness, and diversity; independence and accountability; technology and modernization; quality of justice and service to the public; and continued education for judges and court staff.



24. One Day or One Trial Jury Service

1990 - 1999

One day or one trial jury service started, which ensures that if a juror is not chosen for a jury panel after one day of service at the courthouse, their service is done for at least one year. If a juror is selected to serve on a jury, after the trial is over, their service is also completed for a year or longer.

25. Office of Governmental Affairs

1990 - 1999

The council created an Office of Governmental Affairs and corresponding Legislation Committee to interact with the executive and legislative branches, develop legislative proposals to improve the court system, and make recommendations on pending bills and oversee advocacy for those positions.



26. Center for Families, Children & the Courts

1990 - 1999

The council established its Center for Families, Children & the Courts to improve programs, procedures, and resources for families who use the courts.

27. Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury System Improvement

1990 - 1999

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury System Improvement concluded "jury instructions as presently given in California and elsewhere are, on occasion, simply impenetrable to the ordinary juror." The commission's recommendations led to comprehensive, legally accurate, plain-language jury instructions that are more readily understood by the average juror.



28. Judicial Administration Fellowship Program

1990 - 1999

The Judicial Administration Fellowship program was created to give university students the opportunity to work as full-time, paid staff at courts or the council to gain firsthand experience in the governance and operation of California's court system.

29. Bench-Bar Coalition

1990 - 1999

The council developed the Bench-Bar Coalition to forge strong working relationships between the judiciary and members of the State Bar and to advocate with legislators for matters important to the courts—particularly the need for stable, adequate funding.

2000s

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30. Trial Court Unification Completed

2000 - 2010

By 2001, all 58 counties had unified their superior and municipal courts into a single countywide trial court system.

31. Responsibility for Court Employees

2000 - 2010

Responsibility for court employees in California was transferred from the counties to the courts with the Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act.

32. Expanding the Pool of Court Interpreters

2000 - 2010



The council helped to enlarge the pool of court interpreters by raising their pay, increasing training, and expanding language certification.

33. Collection of Court-Ordered Debt

2000 - 2010

The council coordinated efforts to assist courts and counties to improve the collection of court-ordered debt.



34. California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care

2000 - 2010

The council accepted recommendations from the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care and urged immediate action on the recommendations the judicial branch could adopt on its own. In addition, the federal Fostering Connections for Success and Increasing Adoptions Act directly advanced 20 of the commission's recommendations, including increased support for relative caregivers, continued support for foster children until age 21, and increased funding and grants.

35. Emergency Planning and Security Program

2000 - 2010

An emergency planning and security program was launched to improve court security and continuity of operations planning for the judicial branch.

36. New Statewide Fiscal and Reporting System

2000 - 2010

A new statewide fiscal and reporting system offered courts a diverse range of services, including accounting, procurement, financial services, centralized treasury, trust accounting services, and human resources and payroll support.



37. Trial Court Facilities Act

2000 - 2010

The council advocated for and implemented the Trial Court Facilities Act, which shifted the responsibility for courthouse construction and maintenance from counties to the state to make court buildings across California more secure and accessible. With this new responsibility, the council completed the ownership transfer of 489 court facilities from the counties to the state. The council also approved an initial list of 41 new courthouse construction projects, the largest set of court construction ventures in California history.

38. Pretrial Release Programs

2000 - 2010

A judicial branch workgroup found California's money bail system was "unsafe and unfair." The report proposed a new system that called for a judge's decision to release or detain a defendant before trial based on that person's threat to the public and likelihood of making court appearances—not their ability to pay. The council and the courts would go on to create pretrial release programs that use risk assessment tools, support services, and reminder systems to reduce rearrests and failures to appear.

39. Minimum Education Requirements for Court Staff and Expectations for Judges

2000 - 2010

A collaborative effort between the council and court leadership led to minimum education requirements for court staff and expectations for judges.



40. Online Self-Help Center

2000 - 2010

The council launched an online self-help center to improve court access for litigants without attorneys. The Spanish version of the site debuted a few years later.

41. System for Identifying Judgeship Needs

2000 - 2010

The council created a system for identifying judgeship needs throughout the state.



42. JusticeCorps Program

2000 - 2010

The council created the JusticeCorps program, which trains recent college graduates and undergraduates to provide neutral assistance (not legal advice) to self-represented litigants who come to court self-help centers in Los Angeles, San Diego, and the Bay Area.

43. Commission for Impartial Courts

2000 - 2010

The Commission for Impartial Courts submitted a report to the council on the political pressures on courts that threaten the fairness and impartiality of the judicial branch. Among the recommendations, the report called for the creation of a statewide fair judicial elections committee; mandatory training for all judicial candidates on ethical campaign conduct; strategies for improving civic education; and the creation of local committees to respond to unfounded attacks on judges, judicial decisions, and the judicial system.

44. Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee

2000 - 2010

The council created a task force (now the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee) to make recommendations for improving the conservatorship process for some of California's most vulnerable residents.



45. Public Trust and Confidence Survey

2000 - 2010

The council's Public Trust and Confidence Survey of attorneys and the public was used to help update the strategic plan for the California court system and showed the council's commitment to self-examination and improvement.

2010s

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46. Strategic Evaluation Committee

2010 - 2020

The Chief Justice named the members of the Strategic Evaluation Committee, which conducted an in-depth review of the staff to the council and its organizational structure to promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency in providing services to the courts.

47. Expanding Public Access to Council Meetings

2010 - 2020

The format of council business meetings underwent changes to further increase transparency and public access to the council, including an expanded public comment period and webcasting. The council also expanded public access to meetings of its internal and advisory committees.



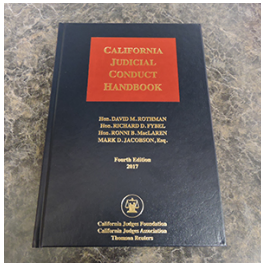
48. Strategic Plan for Court Technology

2010 - 2020

The council developed the initial strategic plan for court technology. Technology planning efforts have improved services to the public and increased the transparency and accountability of how funds are managed for technology projects in the judicial branch.

49. Updating the Judicial Conduct Handbook

2010 - 2020



The council and the courts collaborated on an update to the Judicial Conduct Handbook, which increases public trust and confidence in the court system by helping to ensure proper judicial behavior both on and off the bench.

50. Workload-Based Allocation and Funding Methodology

2010 - 2020

The council created the Workload-Based Allocation and Funding Methodology to make funding more equitable between superior courts.

51. Achieving Goals in Trial Court Funding Act

2010 - 2020

The council joined the Governor's Office to assess the state's progress in achieving the goals outlined in the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997, legislation calling for the state, rather than counties, to assume primary responsibility for funding trial court operations. Results of the assessment showed that funding is more consistently allocated around the state, ensuring a more consistent level of justice for the public regardless of their county.



52. In-Person Court Self-Help Centers

2010 - 2020

In-person court self-help centers became available in all 58 counties.

53. E-Filing for Appellate Courts

2010 - 2020

The council helped implement e-filing for all state appellate courts (including the Supreme Court)—and helped support e-filing efforts in the superior courts as well.

54. Commission on the Future of California's Court System

2010 - 2020

The Commission on the Future of California's Court System examined ways to increase the efficiency of cases in civil, criminal, traffic, juvenile, and family law matters, including recommendations to expand the use of technology to increase opportunities for remote court appearances, voice-to-text language interpretation services, and self-help chatbots.

55. The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act

2010 - 2020



The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act created a program overseen by the council that funds pilot projects to provide legal representation and improved court services to low-income parties on critical legal issues affecting basic human needs. Now available in 11 California counties, Shriver funding supports legal services in housing-related matters (unlawful detainer), child custody, guardianship of the person, probate conservatorship, domestic violence restraining orders, civil harassment restraining orders, and elder abuse cases.

56. Appear for Traffic Tickets Without Bail

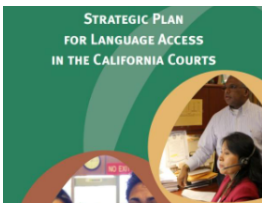
2010 - 2020

The council adopted a new rule that directs courts to allow people to appear for traffic tickets without deposit of bail, unless certain specified exceptions apply.

57. Support for Court Innovations and Efficiencies

2010 - 2020

The council continued its support for court innovations and efficiencies to be replicable statewide. Court projects supported by this grant program included a mobile app for conducting court business online, a new statewide self-help litigant portal, online chatbots on court websites that answer common questions, and expanded use of electronic court records, e-filing, and remote video conferencing.



58. Statewide Language Access Plan

2010 - 2020

The council adopted a statewide Language Access Plan that provided a consistent approach to ensure language access throughout the courts, including the availability of interpreters, translation technology, language help at court counters and self-help centers, and multilingual signage and forms.

59. Training for Judges and Court Staff

2010 - 2020

The council expanded remote and on-demand training for judges and court staff.

60. Judicial Officer Settlement Agreements

2010 - 2020

The council revised the rules of court to require public disclosure of settlement agreements involving complaints against judicial officers—including those involving sexual harassment or discrimination. Additionally, a new council workgroup studied and made recommendations for how to better prevent and address inappropriate workplace conduct in the judicial branch.

61. Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative



2010 - 2020

The Power of Democracy civic learning initiative was created to help connect courts and educators to increase civics education and understanding of the judicial branch of government. Efforts have included the state's new History-Social Science Framework and its greater emphasis on civics, promoting partnerships between local courts and school boards, and creating the Civic Learning Awards and Judges in the Classroom programs.

62. Ensuring the Safety of Courthouse Occupants

2010 - 2020

The council worked with trial courts in fire-ravaged areas, providing on-site assistance to ensure the safety of courthouse occupants. The council also helped extend filing deadlines in jurisdictions with courthouse closures and coordinated cases to help avoid delays and the possibility of conflicting rulings in the nearly 100 major civil lawsuits related to the fires.

63. First Annual ICWA Statewide Symposium

2010 - 2020

The council hosted the first annual statewide symposium for judges, attorneys, social workers, educators, and students to learn about the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and its impact on Native American communities. Celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, the council's Tribal Court–State Court Forum continues to develop and share local rules of court, protocols, standing orders, and other agreements that promote tribal court–state court coordination and cooperation.



64. Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Summit

2010 - 2020

The Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Summit examined how truancy, school discipline, and trauma affect youth and what can be done about it. County teams invited to participate in the summit learned about promising and proven strategies to keep children engaged in school and alternatives to existing school discipline policies that often lead to excessive suspensions and expulsions.

2020-Present

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65. New Rules Addressing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020 - 2026

Amid growing concern for the health and safety of courthouse users, the Chief Justice issued a statewide order on March 23, 2020, to suspend jury trials for 60 days and allow courts to immediately adopt new rules to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The order was aimed at ensuring California courts—which remained open as "essential services"—could meet stringent health directives to curb the spread of the virus.

66. Temporary Statewide Emergency Rules

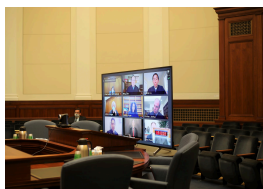
2020 - 2026

As COVID-19 cases surged, the council approved temporary statewide emergency rules to ensure courts could continue providing due process while protecting the public. Measures included approving a COVID-19 emergency bail schedule to help reduce jail populations, staying eviction and foreclosure proceedings, extending statutes of limitations in civil actions, and extending time frames for restraining orders. The rules also encouraged courts to use technology to conduct court proceedings and business remotely.

67. Online COVID-19 News Center

2020 - 2026

To help court users and the public stay updated on court operations, the council created an online COVID-19 News Center with information on judicial branch emergency actions, court emergency orders, advisories, COVID-19 emergency bail schedules, and updates on court services and operations.



68. Expanding Ways to Provide Safe Access to Justice

2020 - 2026

Making good use of statewide orders, advisories, and rules of court, many courts launched or expanded ways to provide safe access to justice during the pandemic, including: electronic filing, proceedings streamed live online, remote hearings for litigants, online self-help services, and remote adoptions.

69. New Programs to Ease the Pandemic's Effect

2020 - 2026

New programs to help ease the pandemic's effect on court operations used retired judges from the Temporary Assigned Judges Program. They included the Criminal Readiness Conference Program, the Early Disposition Program, the Temporary Assigned Judges Civil Mediator Program, and the Court Backlog Assistance Program.



70. Pandemic Resource Guide for Courts

2020 - 2026

A pandemic resource guide for courts shared information and best practices on facilities, personnel, jury management, communications, proceedings by videoconference, and case management and processing.

71. Temporary Statewide Rules End

2020 - 2026

The council ended temporary statewide rules governing evictions and judicial foreclosures as the Governor and the Legislature finally had the opportunity to address pressing issues caused by the pandemic's economic fallout. The council created an evictions webpage that included information about that state legislation and the federal eviction moratorium, as well as checklists and forms for tenants and landlords.



72. Retiring the Remaining Statewide Measures and Emergency Rules

2020 - 2026

The Chief Justice and council rescinded the remaining statewide measures and emergency rules established to address pandemic-related challenges to court operations.

73. California Courts Remained Open as Essential Service to Public

2020 - 2026

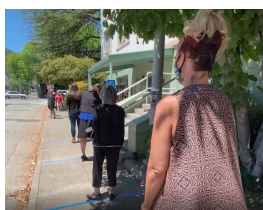
Throughout the pandemic, council and court representatives met virtually with justice system partners and stakeholders, as well as legal aid providers, about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to justice. Those conversations informed the statewide rules, orders, and advisories meant to help courts stay open for business while protecting the health of court users. Despite the substantial challenges posed by the pandemic and the resulting delays for certain case types, California courts never fully closed—but remained open as an essential service to the public.



74. Post-Pandemic Workgroup

2020 - 2026

A council post-pandemic workgroup report found strong support for offering remote access on a permanent basis for most court proceedings, rather than defaulting to pre-pandemic levels of in-person operations. The report found remote proceedings often improved the court experience for testifying victims, expert witnesses, and family law litigants, as well as increased efficiency for arraignments, pretrial conferences, and progress report hearings.



75. Courts Can Retain or Implement Reduced Emergency Bail Schedules

2020 - 2026

As California began a phased reopening and courts started to restore services and proceedings reduced amid the pandemic, including jury trials, the council ended its statewide COVID-19 emergency bail schedule but authorized local courts to retain it or implement reduced bail schedules. Most counties retained local emergency bail schedules.

76. Remote Proceedings Guidance for Judicial Officers

2020 - 2026

A council workgroup on post-pandemic initiatives provided guidance for judicial officers conducting proceedings by videoconference. The guide highlighted practical issues to consider, such as technical equipment, file/screen sharing, and language interpretation.

77. Remote Proceedings Working Group

2020 - 2026

The council convened a working group that identified strong support for making remote proceedings available, but not mandatory, in civil cases. Data collected for a companion report showed courts held more than 500,000 remote proceedings in civil matters over a seven-month period and more than 96% of the feedback collected from those remote users noted favorable experiences.



78. Statewide Data Analytics Summit

2020 - 2026

The council convened a statewide forum on how data can improve court operations and services for the public. This first meeting showed attendees how data can inform decisions on such issues as judge coverage, jury duty, and self-help services. Building on that momentum, the council established a Data Analytics Advisory Committee to better inform judicial branch decision-making and enhance public access to court data and information.

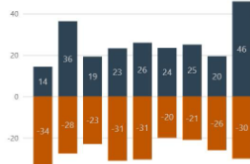


79. Judicial Branch's First Environmental Summit

2020 - 2026

The council convened the branch's first Environmental Summit, where judges and court staff attorneys heard the current science on climate change, the potential impacts on the public, and the expected lawsuits and disagreements courts will help to resolve. The council also expanded training for courts on climate change and water law.

● Reporters Hired ● Reporters Lost



80. Court Reporter Dashboard

2020 - 2026

Recognizing the importance of a verbatim record for court proceedings, the council helped advocate for \$30 million in ongoing state funding to help courts offer various incentives to hire and retain court reporters. The council created an online dashboard that shows court reporter recruitment, retention, and attrition numbers reported by California trial courts and the various incentives courts are employing.



81. Ongoing State Funding for Court Technology

2020 - 2026

Ongoing state funding for court technology expanded voice-to-text translation in clerks and self-help offices, electronic filing, hearing reminders via text, online access to court records, and other technology services.

82. Homelessness Workgroup

2020 - 2026

A new homelessness workgroup found ways the judicial branch can further assist people experiencing homelessness or facing the possibility of losing their homes. Results included improving the process for litigants involved in eviction cases by increasing remote access, expanding self-help resources, and creating more user-friendly court forms with information sheets and checklists.



83. CARE Act Implementation

2020 - 2026

The council helped the courts implement the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, which authorizes specific adults to petition a civil court to create a voluntary CARE agreement or a court-ordered CARE plan.

84. Judicial Diversity Summit

2020 - 2026

Cosponsored by the Judicial Council, the California Lawyers Association, and California Judges Association, the Judicial Diversity Summit focused on how the courts, judges, and attorneys can work together to improve the diversity of judges on the bench. The summit led to recommendations calling for increasing education for attorneys from underrepresented communities about the judicial appointment process, continuing judicial outreach to K-12 schools, strengthening mentoring programs for judicial officers interested in court leadership positions and appointments to higher courts, and expanding the collection of demographic data on the California judiciary by adding a nonbinary category for gender.



85. Pathways to Achieving Judicial Diversity Tool Kit

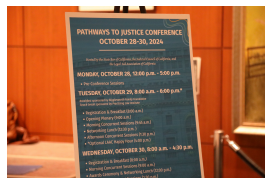
2020 - 2026

Helping to develop court mentoring programs for individuals interested in becoming judges, the council created the Pathways to Achieving Judicial Diversity tool kit, which encourages courts to reach out to underrepresented groups, including individuals with diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, and sexual orientations.

86. Commitment to Leverage Diversity

2020 - 2026

The council approved an update to its Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch, making explicit the branch’s commitment to leverage diversity to foster an inclusive court system in which all individuals are—and feel—respected and engaged and their contributions are valued.



87. Pathways to Justice Conference

2020 - 2026

Cosponsored by the Judicial Council, the State Bar, and the Legal Aid Association of California, the Pathways to Justice conference brought together nonprofit legal services providers, private bar pro bono volunteers, and staff from court departments and self-help centers to discuss how the legal community can improve services for people who face challenges accessing the court system. The conference highlighted a broad range of strategies, including technology, artificial intelligence (AI), childcare, pro bono work, lawyer referral services, and language access.

88. Preventing Bias in Court Interactions

2020 - 2026

The council approved new standards to encourage bias reporting and education, broaden the list of classifications protected, and define the optimal makeup and roles of local or regional committees working to prevent bias in court interactions by court staff or judicial officers.



89. California Native American Day

2020 - 2026

Supporting its efforts related to diversity and inclusion, the council cosponsored Assembly Bill 855, which made California Native American Day an official California state holiday for judicial branch and local court employees. The legislation exchanged Columbus Day for California Native American Day, which is now celebrated yearly by judicial employees on the fourth Friday in September. The council also supported AB 1655, which made Juneteenth a California state holiday to commemorate the final end to slavery in the United States.



90. Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program

2020 - 2026

The council launched the Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program, which reimburses participants for costs associated with their training, coursework, and up to three examination fees. Program graduates must also agree to work for the courts for at least three years after passing all the required exams. Twenty superior courts participated in the first cohort of the program and collectively received more than 1,000 applications.

91. Collaborative Justice Courts

2020 - 2026

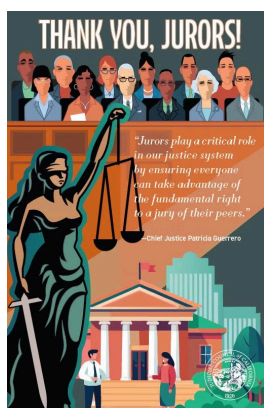
The council continued to support collaborative justice courts—also known as problem-solving courts—which combine judicial supervision with rehabilitation services that are rigorously monitored and focused on recovery to reduce recidivism and improve offender outcomes. California courts have created more than 400 collaborative justice court programs.



92. Court Adoption and Permanency Month

2020 - 2026

The council celebrated the 25th anniversary of declaring November as Court Adoption and Permanency Month. More than two decades of collaborative efforts among the Judicial Council, the superior courts, and partners in child welfare have achieved positive progress in improving adoption and permanency in California.



93. Further Initiatives to Improve Jury Service

2020 - 2026

Further initiatives to improve jury service in California included legislation enabling jurors to get reimbursed for mileage expenses both to and from court; e-payments for jurors instead of paper checks; and expanded online jury portals, where individuals can check dates of service, sign up for reminders, and request postponements and excusals.

94. Achieving Climate Sustainability in Courthouses

2020 - 2026

Responsible for maintaining more than 21 million square feet of space in roughly 450 facilities statewide, the council presented a plan for achieving climate sustainability by reducing water and energy use, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and moving to 100% clean energy.



95. Return of Beyond the Bench Conference

2020 - 2026

The council's signature multidisciplinary conference devoted to children, youth, and families involved in the California court system was the first in-person event of its kind since 2019.

96. Model for Measuring Court Workload Updates

2020 - 2026

The council updated its model for measuring court workload, which factors in the number and types of cases filed to estimate the time and amount of staff courts require to process cases.



97. MyCitations Ability-to-Pay Tool

2020 - 2026

The MyCitations online tool, which enables litigants with financial hardship to request reductions to traffic tickets, became available in all 58 California counties. Users can also request a payment plan, more time to pay, or community service. Adding to the tool's functionality, a new Online Trial by Declaration module allows a defendant to contest eligible traffic citations by submitting a written statement and uploading evidence online.

98. Safeguarding Against Cyberthreats

2020 - 2026

The judicial branch made strides in safeguarding the courts and their personnel against cyberthreats. The council has coordinated interactive cybersecurity webinars and conducted phishing exercises so staff could practice identifying and responding to simulated threats. The courts also expanded endpoint protection, ensuring devices are better equipped to detect, prevent, and respond to threats.

99. Supporting Court Technology Initiatives

2020 - 2026

The council has continued to support court technology initiatives to improve services for the public, including digitizing and increasing access to court records, as well as ensuring disaster recovery during unexpected server outages. Priorities for grant funding include cyber/information security, remote proceedings, data analytics, AI, and modernizing court technology infrastructure.



100. Artificial Intelligence Task Force

2020 - 2026

The Chief Justice announced a new Artificial Intelligence Task Force to study generative AI for its potential benefits to courts and court users while mitigating risks to safeguard the public. The task force has already produced a model AI use policy that provides guidelines and safeguards on the use of generative AI by courts.